

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 226823

10

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

SCI-02 OMB-01 /037 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:JDMCLAUGHLIN:BB

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

NEA/INS:JNACH (PHONE)

NEA/RA:TGRANT

----- 002904

R 152238Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226823

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR INDIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT DESCRIBING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN INDIA. PAPER WAS PREPARED FOR USE DURING FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEW. WE INVITE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT AND CABLE ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MISSION MAY HAVE. MISSION REPRESENTATIVE AT NEW DELHI REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS ASSESSMENT WITH WASHINGTON REPS AT CONFERENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: INDIA IS SIGNIFICANT AS AN OPIUM PRODUCER AND PROCESSOR. INDIA IS BY FAR THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF LEGAL OPIUM, HAVING PRODUCED NEARLY 1,000 TONS IN 1974 OF WHICH 850 TONS WERE MADE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 226823

AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. INDIA PROBABLY HAS ONE OF THE

WORLD'S BEST CONTROL SYSTEMS. THE OPIUM GUM IS COLLECTED AND PROCESSED UNDER STRICT GOVERNMENT CONTROLS, AND INDIAN OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT DIVERSION INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS IS MINIMAL, NO MORE THAN ONE PERCENT. THIS ESTIMATE PROBABLY IS LOW; HOWEVER, MOST EXPERTS AGREE THAT INDIAN CONTROLS ARE QUITE EFFECTIVE. SOME OPIUM IS REPORTED TO BE SMUGGLED INTO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN AND POSSIBLY FROM BURMA; AND MOST OF THIS COULD BE INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED ILLICIT TRAFFIC FROM INDIA TO SRI LANKA AND THE PERSIAN GULF EMIRATES.

PROBLEM: IF THERE IS A PROBLEM IN REFERENCE TO INDIA, IT IS PROBABLY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO ADMIT THAT THEIR CONTROL MECHANISM ACTUALLY HAS LEAKS. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING WITH THE US IN ELIMINATING THE ILLICIT HASHISH TRAFFIC, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THE EXTENT OF THE ILLICIT OPIUM TRAFFIC. THE CONTROL SYSTEM COULD COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE, HOWEVER, IF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS TURN TO INDIA AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLICIT OPIUM. INDIA IS VIEWED BY WESTERN OFFICIALS AS THE BEST SOURCE OF OPIUM TO MEET THE PRESENT AND EXPANDING PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS OF THE WORLD. INDIA, HOWEVER, IS RELUCTANT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION FOR FEAR OF STRAINING ITS CONTROL CAPABILITIES.

PROSPECTS: INDIA PROBABLY WILL REMAIN STATIC AS FAR AS OPIUM PRODUCTION IS CONCERNED, AT LEAST AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS STABLE. INDIA DOES INTEND TO DEVELOP AN INCISED POPPY STRAW INDUSTRY; THE INITIAL PLANT IS EXPECTED TO GO ON STREAM IN 1978. IN THE MEANTIME, INDIA WILL EXPORT ABOUT 10,000 TONS OF POPPY STRAW EACH YEAR. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY INTENTION TO SHIFT ENTIRELY TO POPPY STRAW HOWEVER. US-INDIAN COOPERATION IN OPIUM MATTERS PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CAMPAIGN TO CURB ILLICIT TRAFFIC. END TEXT. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE226823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDMCLAUGHLIN:BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0988
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741045/aaaablwt.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR INDIA
TAGS: SNAR, IN
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005